

MISS MATTHISON AS THE PIPER WINS BIG BELASCIO AUDIENCE

Lure in Name as Well as
Trooping Children and
Haunting Tune.

QUAINT FANTASY APPEALS TO ADULTS

Male Role Given Charm by Woman
Whose Part Stands Out
in Play.

Lured by the magic in the name of Edith Wynne Matthison, one of the largest audiences at the Belasco this season greeted "The Piper" last night, and the quaint fantasy cast its charm over all and held them as spellbound as the troupe of children who danced when the piper played and followed gleefully wherever he led.

Despite its fantastic theme and its poetry, "The Piper" is not a dream play, for beneath the surface it deals with conditions and people in a decidedly practical way. While it is a play about children largely, the thorough appreciation of it must come from the grown-ups.

The first appearance of the piper is made just after he has piped all of the rats out of Hamelin, the scenes being laid in 1284, A. D., and is demanding the reward that the burgo-master has promised him. The rats being gone, and the piper being a stroller, a mere nobody, the promised reward is refused, and he and his companions are threatened with imprisonment. Then the townspeople leave him and file into the church, while he stands outside with folded arms and stern mien as they pass.

Little Crippled Jan.
Finally none is left but little crippled Jan, who sits on the steps gazing up at the image of Christ, "The Lonely Man," as he expresses it, waiting for him to smile.

The little lad seeing the piper, pleads with him to play again the tune that charmed away the rats and delighted the childish hearts, and the piper begins to play the haunting strain. One by one the children begin to gather about him until none is left at home, and the piper leads them off, dancing and capering. Two little lads, playing in the church, suddenly hear the strains and come rushing out and follow him. Then the alarm is given, the great church bell tolls, and the people come rushing out to find all the children gone.

The next scene shows the children hidden inside the hollow hill, first playing peacefully, then growing restless, then in a state of panic, and finally in a state of terror. The third scene shows the cross-roads, where the piper, hidden behind a vine-covered well, pipes away as the long procession of Hamelin folk, bound to the convent with the young daughter of the burgo-master, whom they are making a sacrifice, and sets them all to dancing by the magic sweetness of his tune. All the children, who are aroused, they dance from the haunted spot, and the piper saves Barbara and brings happiness to Michael, the sword-eater, who has met and loved her.

Jan's Mother Searches.

A little later, Veronika, the mother of little crippled Jan, comes to the crossroads in search of her boy, the only one in the town brave enough to visit the accursed spot. She meets the piper and pleads with him to bring her child back. At first the piper refuses, but unable to resist the silent pleading of "The Lonely Man" he agrees to bring the children back.

The last act shows the market place in Hamelin. Veronika is dying, and the piper sounds the magic strains calling the children. The patter of little feet is heard in the distance, growing louder and louder, and in a moment a whole troop of scurrying youngsters bursts onto the stage and they are gathered into the arms of crying mothers and fathers. This is the most impressive scene of the play.

After seeing Miss Matthison in the title role, it is hard to imagine anyone else playing it. The piper is a man's role, but there is nothing masculine about Miss Matthison's portrayal of it, though it is to be questioned whether anything is lost by the change. There is poetry and charm in her conception that one cannot imagine a man giving it, which more than offsets the lessening of romance and significance which a woman in the part gives it.

About Miss Matthison everything centers, and none of the minor roles stand out with much prominence. The Veronika of Miss Olive Oliver, the Michael of the Sword-Eater of William Raymond, the Barbara of Frances Jordan, and the Peter the Cobbler of Edward See, were among the characters that were especially well done.

May Yohe, Once Wife of Lord Hope, At Casino

There is a special interest for Washingtonians this week in the appearance here of May Yohe, former wife of Lord Francis Hope, at one time owner of the famous Hope diamond, which just now is figuring in a suit in the District courts. Previous to her marriage to Lord Hope, from whom the noted gem took its name, May Yohe was a singer on the musical comedy stage, on which she won great distinction both here and abroad.

It was as a vocalist that she returned to the stage, and those who heard her songs at the Casino last night readily perceived that time has taken none of her old-time ability from her.

Miss Yohe has a supporting bill of exceptional strength, including Ziegfeld and Saunders in an offering of magic and singing; Jane Cooper and company in a rural comedy sketch called "Madam Linda"; Camaron, a strong man, in some astonishing feats; Laura Ordway, an English comedienne, in a suggestive monologue; the Miller sisters in vocal duets; Skinner and Wood, shadow dancers; Musical Lowe, with his xylophones; and an unusual number of dramatic motion picture plays.

HOWARD—"The Star of Zanzibar." The Whitney Musical Comedy Company began its second week's engagement at the Howard last night. "The Star of Zanzibar," a bright musical comedy in two acts, was the offering, and was well received by a large and appreciative audience. The specialties were introduced: The Whitney Four, Mabel Debeard, the Darktown School, J. Francis Moore, and Madame Bruce.

CHARM OF TRENTINI MAKES SUCCESS OF NIGHTLY MARQUETTA

Little Comic Opera Star
Wins Friends in Hammerstein Production.

The winning little Trentini has further to go to reach a high note than any of the comic opera stars who have been in the limelight for many years, but she reaches it with an ease and ecstasy which even she herself seems to enjoy. It is like the burnished hummingbird that she flits and darts and sparkles, but it is like the very lark that she sings and soars.

It was an enthusiastic audience which greeted her and the excellent company which Mr. Hammerstein presented in "Naughty Marietta" at the National last night. From the first moment she came on the stage, a bundle of nervous energy filled with all the melody and charm which belong to her sunny Italy, she caught on. On a previous occasion she had won the hearts of the people of Washington and her appearance last night only confirmed their good opinion. There can be no doubt that in this charming little duet of mirth and song Mr. Hammerstein has made a real find.

In the book, written by Rida Johnson Young, there are unmistakable evidences of a master craftsman's hand—an accustomed to the more solid structure of the drama itself. So far from being weak in plot, a charge so often brought against the slender thread on which comic operas are hung—the story was as well worked out as if it had been intended for dramatic representation.

Edward Marindel, with a voice against which no complaint could be justly lodged, seemed rather too strongly persuaded that he was the mainstay of the play, with facial exaggeration and affectations which might well be toned down. Orville Harold got welcome as soon as he came on the stage. His friends knew what to expect of him, and they were not disappointed, while Harry Cooper, as Simon O'Hara, divided honors with Kate Elmore, the grotesque Lizette.

In costume and scenery as well as in the music, "Naughty Marietta" was a production which reflected credit upon Victor Herbert and all who were concerned in its presentation. As for Trentini, Washington will probably be glad to hear the little soprano many times again.

ACADEMY—"James Boys in Missouri."

"The James Boys in Missouri," a melodrama with bullets and thunder enough to satisfy the most exacting followers of this type of play, is at the Academy this week. There are thrills innumerable, and interest is well sustained.

Shot and shell are in evidence almost from the time the curtain goes up until the end of the performance, the great climax being a house-burning scene, in which Jesse James' home is burned to the ground, and his sweetheart rescued under half-raising circumstances.

Also there is a real, sure-enough train hold-up, with the James boys to the rescue at the psychological moment.

Karl Hewitt and Harry Lester are Jesse and Jim, respectively, and gave an excellent portrayal of the parts. Miss Anna Coghly is Jennie Summers, Jesse's sweetheart. She looks like a girl of the true Western type, and played the part realistically.

GAYETY—"The Behman Show."

The Behman Show opened its week at the Gayety last night with a program that is all that a burlesque entertainment should be. The company is headed by Will J. Kennedy, prince of "rubes," and with him is a cast with some good voices and catchy songs, a chorus of pretty girls in good costumes. The staging and costuming of the two-act musical farce, "Palm Beach," that forms the chief offering of the bill, are excellent.

Eileen Sheridan, the soubrette, shares honors in the cast with Kennedy. Lon Jansell, as "Jumpy" Manly, has a rapid fire of slang that makes a hit with the crowd. The olio and the last act of skit introduce Ralph Locksaw, who has a good voice, and brandy new jokes.

This week as a special feature the Gayety will offer on Wednesday a wrestling match between Shad Link and John Perrell, a bout that promises to be one of the liveliest ever held in Washington.

LYCEUM—"The Strollers."

The Lyceum this week offers "The Florida Strollers," an organization of colored performers, who present a humorous two-act musical farce, "Hot Times in Florida." The burlesque contains much old-fashioned negro comedy and the usual number of interpolated songs, some new and several old.

By far the most able comedian in the company is Sam Gaines, whose work is genuinely funny. Annie Smith Worley wins second honors in the soubrette role.

MAJESTIC—"Sapho."

That "Sapho" has lost none of its popularity was demonstrated by the large audience which greeted the O'Connor-Rose-Clock Company last night at the Majestic.

Edna Cecil Daly, as Sapho, portrayed the character in a most admirable manner, and her acting was far superior to anything she has attempted at the Majestic so far. Her appearance in the first act commanded a round of applause. Herbert O'Connor, as Joah Jansin, the student, looked and played the victim of Sapho's wiles capably. The rest of the company handled their roles most satisfactorily, and the scenic production was elaborate.

METROPOLITAN—"Flea Circus."

At the Metropolitan Theater the first part of this week, Prof. Nokes' exhibition of his trained fleas is the feature attraction.

The insects have been trained by Prof. Nokes to perform all sorts of circus tricks. They dance in ladies' costumes, juggle a ball, walk tight rope, draw chariots, operate treadmill, and ride, and operate a merry-go-round.

MILITARY DRAMA PLEASES PATRONS OF THE COLUMBIA

"Arizona" Warmly Greeted
by Audience That Filled
Theater.

In a revival of "Augustus Thomas' play of army life, "Arizona," the Columbia Players were warmly greeted by an audience that filled that theater from gallery to pit last night. The production of this strong military drama marked the beginning of the second week of this company in Washington. There was a bit of unfamiliarity now and then with the lines, especially on the part of Colonel Bonham, played by Louis Morrell, but this can be easily explained to the first-nighters.

It's been almost ten years since Washington saw "Arizona," but nearly everybody remembers the plot of the story, in which many of the stars of today have at one time appeared. The play is a melodrama of the better type. There's a villain, of course, a wronged girl, an intrigue at an army post resulting in the temporary suffering of an innocent man, a few cowboys, a gruff, good-natured rancher and his suffragette wife, the flash of gold braid and the jangling of spurs. Everything is all straightened up when the time is all brought together on the stage in the last act, the villain already having gone the way of all villains.

Miss Neilson's Work.

Miss Frances Neilson played last night the part of Bonita Canby, a girl typical of the Western plains. Her stage duties were to be vivacious, a bit coquettish, and thoroughly lovable. Also, Bonita has to be of a trustful sort, believing in the innocence of young Lieutenant Benton, played by Henry Mortimer. Miss Neilson was thoroughly adapted to the role, and added to the number of her Washington admirers.

Mr. Mortimer, playing the "glad hand" when he first entered, left the audience at the finish still more pleased with his acting.

Estrella Bonham, the misguided wife of the army colonel, is Miss Louise Arnold of the stage. Miss Arnold had a rather difficult role, as she was a near villainess. She made the most of her part and handled quite capably the two strong scenes in which the natural woman's instincts were put to the test.

Everett Butterfield, another favorite in the Columbia Company, strayed off his usual reservation last evening and was found in the guise of a Mexican vaquero. He was a good Mexican and his performance demonstrates his versatility as an actor.

The Villain.

Frederic Forrester is the Captain Hodgman of the play, the villain with dark moustache and dark designs. He had the military bearing, and in addition all the artifices of his like on the stage, which is the best tribute that can be paid to one who must play villain. The part, while an excellent one, is a thankless one. Sergeant Keller, with a German accent, Miss Jessie Glendenning, endowed with natural beauty and charm, was bent on the rescue of her sweetheart, a waitress, George W. Barber, was good as a breezy Western ranch owner, because he was natural and direct. The villain's part was a public movement of this sort by donating the ship to Vallejo and that it would aid in moving the vessel across the channel and locating it upon the city's water front.

President of France Aids Fallen Aviator

KAIROUAN, Tunis, April 25.—President Fallieres, of France, today witnessed a serious aeroplane accident when Aviator Benoit's machine crashed into the top of a stone wall on the military field and fell forty feet into a deep moat.

The machine was wrecked and Benoit badly injured. Fallieres hastened to the aid of his countryman and accompanied the stretcher which Benoit was carried to the military hospital.

District After Violators Of Traffic Regulations

Violation of the District laws regarding traffic regulations are being prosecuted in District side of Police Court. Robert Gray, colored, who is employed in Brookland, was sentenced today to pay a fine of \$50 or serve three months for colliding. He ran into a doctor's rig on Seventh street northeast.

An average of six cases a day is maintained in these prosecutions. Over-speeding by motor vehicles and failure to properly register and mark them is also being prosecuted.

Locked In a Box Car Four Days; Nearly Dead

NEW YORK, April 25.—Locked in a box car for four days without food or water, Hyman Gordon, of Cleveland, Ohio, was nearly dead when the car was opened here.

He was sent into the car in Cleveland to count the four bags that it contained and the door was closed on him.

Church Too Snobbish, So Pastor Resigns

NEW YORK, April 25.—Charging that his church was too snobbish, and sought to exclude the poor, the Rev. T. Calvin McClelland has resigned the pastorate of the Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Parisian Sage

A Hair Grower, Dressing and Beautifier that Delights All Womankind

Yes, Dear Madam: Keep a bottle of Parisian Sage in your home and you will have the most delightful and invigorating hair dressing known to mankind.

It drives out dandruff, makes the scalp immaculate, keeps the hair white, stops all itching sensation and prevents the hair from falling out, fading or turning gray.

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CONSUL HOLDING TOP-PLACE ON CHASE'S BILL

Simian Wonder Proves Great
Attraction to Vaudeville Patrons.

Consul, the Jungle Man, in a display of mental and physical feats, is the headline attraction at Chase's this week, and his marvelous performances were witnessed by capacity houses yesterday afternoon and evening. This Simian wonder performs feats as like a human being as possible. He eats at a table with all the manners necessary; he holds a ball for the waiter, strikes a match, lights a cigarette and smokes it. He then roller skates, rides a bicycle, shoots a rifle. Consul undresses and goes to bed; in fact, does everything required of him in a perfect manner. The exhibition is a remarkable one.

Bert Levy, a New York cartoonist, again depicts famous men and beautiful women, using an invention of his own to display them in a humorous manner.

Toots Paka and her trio of Hawaiians render native songs and symbolic dances. The act concludes with Miss Paka's famous dance.

Alexander and Scott appear in a minstrel sketch, "From Virginia"—one member of the team gives a female impersonation, a la Jules Eltinge, and appears in elaborate gowns.

Ellen Steele, James Conlin, and Eddie Lane present a musical comedy sketch, "Just From College," the act being under the title to a night. The DeLong sisters and Frank Milton appear in a sketch, "Twenty Minutes at Alcala Junction," which is filled with laughs. Their act closes with a selection on saxophones, which was the best part of their offering.

Lane and O'Donnell, as the "Lunatic Tumblers Looking the Bumps," give an amusing acrobatic act that completes the week's offerings.

Women Want Old Warship for Club Home

VALLEJO, Cal., April 25.—The Women's Improvement Club of this city, has come forward with a plan to prevent the removal of the old receiving ship Independence.

With a view to buying the historic vessel and bringing it to the Vallejo side of the channel to establish it as a club house and reception building for visitors to this city, a committee will call upon Commandant Hugo Osterhaus and ascertain the best procedure for petitioning the Navy Department for the vessel.

If the vessel can be obtained from the Government it is the plan of the women to use it as a public dining hall, a restaurant, a social center, a chamber of commerce, and other bodies.

The women believe that the Government will support a public movement of this sort by donating the ship to Vallejo and that it would aid in moving the vessel across the channel and locating it upon the city's water front.

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ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT IS TO HAVE NEW CHIEF

One Will Be Named When
the City Council Meets
Tonight.

WASHINGTON TIMES BUREAU, ALEXANDRIA, VA., APRIL 25.

The city council will meet this evening and will, it is expected, go into joint session for the purpose of naming a chief of the fire department to succeed the late George W. Pettie, who dropped dead at a fire April 16. But two candidates have so far been mentioned for the position, Robert Gronau and John Leadbeater.

There is a sentiment among several members of the council to appoint a chief who can devote his entire time to his duties, paying him a sufficient salary to warrant this, and to station him at one of the engine houses.

The matter of the tax rate will also be heard tonight. After the question was thought to have been successfully disposed of, several inconsistencies in the rate were discovered, which rendered the re-passing of the bill necessary. It is thought that when it is brought before the lower body, some of the members may recommend still further changes.

No agreement was reached by the jury in corporation court yesterday in the suit of Corbet against Rogers, and it was accordingly dismissed, and the case continued until the July term. The suit involves the sale of thirty acres of land in Fairfax county, Monroeville, Wampler, and Gloth appeared for the plaintiff and Samuel G. Brent for the defendant.

Alexandria Camp 11,335, Modern Woodmen of America, met in their hall last night and conferred the fraternal degrees upon several new members, the degree team being in full uniform. The invitation of the Alexandria Lodge of Elks to attend the Elks' Spring Festival was accepted.

In the corporation court, yesterday, the Rev. S. W. Rosenberg, pastor of the Methodist Protestant Church, was granted permission to perform the rite of matrimony.

Hearings on liquor licenses come up in corporation court today.

A. D. Brockett, of this city, has been designated by Governor Mann to act as a member of the board of visitors to Mt. Vernon.

Two candidates will be initiated at the meeting of Samaritan-Rebekah Lodge No. 1, O. O. F., to be held this evening, and arrangements for their entertainment, to be held at the Young People's Building, Thursday, completed.

A chalk talk for the benefit of the Free Kindergarten fund will be given by Clifford K. Berryman, the cartoonist, at the Young People's Building next Friday night.

Bishop R. A. Gibson, of the Episcopal diocese of Virginia, confirmed a large class and preached a sermon at Christ Episcopal Church last evening.

Officers for the ensuing year will be elected by the Seventeenth Regiment, United States of Confederacy, at a meeting to be held at Lee Camp Hall at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Smoke Suit Halts Pending Investigation

Ruling in the smoke nuisance case pending before Judge Pugh in the District side of Police Court will be made as soon as Assistant Corporation Counsel Schultz files his citations in support of the Government case. The defense, Simpson-Sullivan Company, as agents for the Manor House, in Mt. Pleasant, are ready to meet the issue.

The issue involved is whether the police have authority to collect evidence and enter complaint in cases of alleged violation of the smoke law.

Club to Meet.

There will be a meeting of the Men's Temple Club at the Eighth Street Temple at 8 o'clock tonight. Simon Wolf will speak on "Immigration and the Passport Question."

Gold Stolen From Mouth of Dead Man

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 25.—A peculiar mystery which centers about the loss of \$75 worth of gold from the mouth of a dead man yet remains to be called to the attention of the authorities. His relatives assert that the gold was stolen from the mouth of Henry Melssen, aged seventy-five, who died at the county hospital and was buried minus the gold crowns that had been put in by Dr. Frank Stevens, a dentist.

F. A. Valle, who employed Melssen, says that the gold was there when Melssen was admitted to the hospital March 13.

August Melssen, brother, and his wife declare that when they took final leave of the dead man at the grave the gold crowns were gone. All concerned are now under investigation.

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